

REMARKS

The indication that claim 12 has been allowed and that claims 8 and 10 include patentable subject matter is acknowledged with thanks. In reliance thereon, the subject matter of claim 8 has been added to claim 1 and claim 10 has been placed in independent form by adding the subject matter of claim 1 thereto. New claims 13-18 have been added that depend from claim 10 and correspond to claims 4-7, 9 and 8 respectively. Claims 5-7 are now dependent from claim 1.

Claim 7 was rejected under §112, second paragraph, and has been amended to depend from claim 5. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

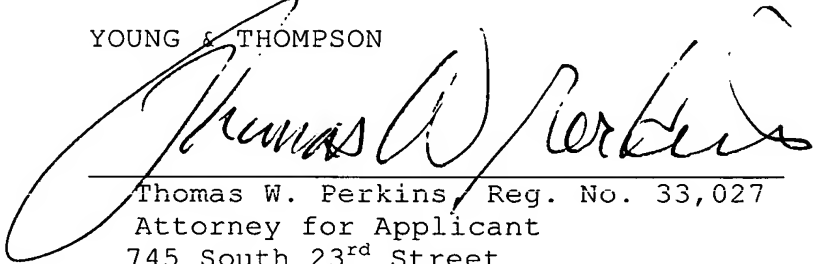
Withdrawal of OKADA et al. US 2002/0153149 A1 as a reference is respectfully requested because it is not prior art. See the "Examiner Guidelines for 35 U.S.C. §102(e)", Example 6. This reference is based on the national stage of an international application filed prior to November 29, 2000 and has a reference date for §102(a) or (b) of October 24, 2002 (U.S. publication date), which is after the filing date of the present application.

In view of the present amendment, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Thomas W. Perkins". The signature is written over a horizontal line that separates it from the printed text below.

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TWP/bsg